



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia takes *iftar* with the inmates of Islamia Kamil Madrasah Baitul Amin Orphanage on the first day of Ramadan yesterday. —Star photo

Teachers' salaries transferred to banks

The Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate yesterday transferred Taka 95,69,51,094.38 to Janata, Agrani, Rupali and Sonali Bank authorities as the official part of the salary of the teachers and other employees in the non-government educational institutions, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The teachers and employees of the non-government educational institutions including schools, colleges, madrasahs, SSC (vocational) and HSC (business management) have been requested to draw the official part of their salary within January 14 from their respective banks.

The handout said for valid reasons if any teacher or employee fails to draw their arrear salary of the current year June 1998 to November 1998 or 40 per cent of the new national scale of 1997 from first July, 1998 to September 30, 1998 then they would be able to draw the pending salaries from their own accounts within the stipulated time.

JS body meet on industries ministry held

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Industries was held yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Committee Chairman Dewan Farid Gazi in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in detail the activities of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) and its different problems.

The meeting advised the concerned authorities of Bangladesh Sugar Mills Corporation (BSMC) to take necessary steps for making it a profitable concern by reducing losses.

Committee members Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, A K M Rahmat Ullah, Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, Mrs Shanaz Sardar, Mohamad Golam Hossain and A K M Mosharrif Hossain attended the meeting.

Industries Secretary K M Ejazul Haq and concerned high officials were present in the meeting.



Death anniversary

The fifth death anniversary of Kohinoor Banu, mother of Shaheed Dr Abul Kalam Azad, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a *Quran khawan* and a *mild mahfil* will be held at the residence of her son, Habibul Bashar, editor of the Daily Morning Post, at House-35/B, Road-7, Block-G, Banani.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *mild mahfil*.

The 3rd death anniversary of communist leader comrade Abdul Haque will be observed today, reports UNB.

To mark the day, the death anniversary observance committee will place wreaths at his graveyard in Mirpur at 10 am and hold a discussion at Jatiya Press Club, also in the morning.

It will arrange a public meeting at Daratana Shaheed Chatar in Jessor on 2 pm Wednesday, said a press release.

Comrade Haque died on December 22, 1995.

The 4th death anniversary of Prof Azharul Islam, former MLA and Member of the Public Service Commission (PSC), will be observed on December 23, said a press release, reports BSS.

Born in village Karotia under Modhupur thana of Tangail district, Prof Islam was a life-long member of Bangladesh Awami League and elected MLA of the then East Pakistan Parliament Assembly.

Relatives, well-wishers and admirers of the deceased are requested to pray for the departed soul of Prof Islam.

Brahmanbaria incident NGO activists demand removal of DC

By Staff Correspondent
NGO activists at a meeting in the city yesterday resolved that Deputy Commissioner of Brahmanbaria should be relieved of his responsibilities for the sake of a fair and neutral probe into the December 7 incident.

The meeting, held at conference room of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), reviewed the latest developments in Brahmanbaria after the December 7 violence centring participation of women at a planned victory fair.

With the ADAB president Dr Kazi Faruq Ahmad in the chair, the meeting was attended by NGOs associated with ADAB in Brahmanbaria and steering committee members of Comilla sub-committee, says a press release.

The meeting in a resolution noted that those anti-liberation terrorists who had attacked women in Brahmanbaria on December 7 were still giving threats to NGO workers and no legal measures had been taken against them.

It demanded of the government to ensure security of all NGO workers in Brahmanbaria. The meeting also urged the government to take legal steps so that compensation could be claimed from attackers as the meeting noted, properties worth crores of taka were destroyed during torching of NGO offices and looting on December 7.

It demanded inclusion of the issue of human rights violence in the terms of reference of the enquiry commission.

RUJA protests assault on newsman
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 21: Rajshahi University Journalists Association (RUJA) brought out a silent procession on the campus Sunday with black clothes covering their faces in protest against assault on a newsman by an Awami League-backed Chhatra League cadre, reports APB.

Starting from Rajshahi University Press Club, the protesters paraded the campus at noon. They also held a rally in front of the administrative building.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to acting Vice Chancellor Prof Sajidur Rahman Khan demanding exemplary punishment of the cadre, Ahsanul Haque Pintu.

Pintu allegedly assaulted Faruque Hossain Chowdhury, the RU correspondent of a vernacular daily, as he did not cover the news of BCL.

Chairman of the bank, Tajul Islam Mohammad Farook told the news agency that the bank has launched a poverty alleviation programme to raise the standard of living of rural population and also for increasing production.

Under the programme, the bank already sanctioned Tk 7 crore and 20 lakh for the farmers for purchase of cattle. Tk 3 crore and 90 lakh for purchase of agricultural inputs and Tk over two crore for purchase of cows.

The bank also recovered Tk 67 crore during the last five months from farmers which was earlier provided to them as agricultural loan.

Managing Director of RAKUB Yasin Ali said the bank will provide loan amounting Tk 186 crore out of Tk 300 crore for increasing agricultural production in the region.

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BNP chief takes *iftar* with orphans

By Staff Correspondent
Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia had *iftar* with the orphanage children at Uttar Badda Senior Madrasa and Orphanage Centre on the first day of the holy Ramadan yesterday.

On arrival at the madrasa, Begum Zia was greeted by hundreds of orphanage children, local people and elite. She moved around the madrasa and talked with the orphanage prior to *iftar* and had *iftar* with them, said a press release.

BNP leaders Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Sadeq Hosain Khoka MP, Major (Retd) Kamru Islam, Major Gen (Retd) Z A Khan, Shahjahan Omar, Ehsanul Haq Milon, ward commissioner M A Kayom and Habibullah Habib accompanied the party chairperson.

Meanwhile, the BNP chief will host an *iftar* party to the Islamic scholars, *deems*, Islamic thinkers and others engaged with Islamic research at her official residence of 29 Minto Road today.

Discussion on Vested Property Act

By Staff Correspondent
Participants at a discussion meeting in the city said there were no legal complexities in repealing the Vested Property Act, says a press release.

The discussion on "Silver Jubilee of Universal Human Rights and Enemy" (Vested) Property Act was held at Jatiya Press Club under the aegis of K B Roy Chowdhury Memorial Sangsads on Sunday. It was organised to mark the first death anniversary of K B Roy Chowdhury, a former VP of DUCSU and human rights leader.

The discussants include, Dr Kamal Hossain, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Col (retd) Shakawat Ali, MP, Abdul Latif Siddique MP, Khushu Kabir, Shamsui Huda, Dr Abdul Barkat, Dr Lalit Mohan Nath and Manzoor Roy Chowdhury. Ali Akbar presided over the meeting.

RAKUB disburses Tk 114 cr in six months

RAJSHAHI, Dec 21: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has fixed a target to disburse Tk 300 crore through 299 bank branches in 16 northern districts for boosting agricultural production during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Of the total amount, the bank has, so far, disbursed over Taka 114 crore during the last five and a half months.

During the last fiscal year, RAKUB disbursed Tk 208 crore while its target was Taka 250 crore.

Chairman of the bank, Tajul Islam Mohammad Farook told the news agency that the bank has launched a poverty alleviation programme to raise the standard of living of rural population and also for upholding the cultural and national heritage.

He hoped that the fair would contribute to make the handloom products popular both at home and abroad as well as upholding the cultural and national heritage.

The bank also recovered Tk 67 crore during the last five months from farmers which was earlier provided to them as agricultural loan.

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House of Commons praises developments in Bangladesh

An early day motion tabled in the British House of Commons praised developments in Bangladesh, especially, in restoration of rule of law and institutionalisation of democracy, according to a message received here from London yesterday, reports BSS.

The resolution was tabled by Ms Oorla King, MP representing Bethnal Green and Bow constituency of London along with others on the occasion of 27th anniversary of victory day praising developments in Bangladesh in various fields.

The resolution is expected to receive wide support after the parliament reassembles in the new year.

The resolution states as follows:

"That this House commends the people of Bangladesh for their courage and resilience in

Baitul Mukarram Mosque to have new minars

Two new minars will be added to Baitul Mukarram National Mosque according to its original design which will reflect the glorious Muslim heritage of Dhaka city, Director General of Bangladesh Islamic Foundation said yesterday, reports BSS.

Maulana Abdul Awal, the DG of Islamic Foundation, said this while exchanging views with the Egyptian Ambassador in Dhaka Ossama Mohammed Tawfiq at the foundation's headquarters. He said Baitul Mukarram mosque would be renovated as one of the most spectacular architectural beauties in the world.

The new minars would be similar to that of the sophisticated mosques in Kuala Lumpur and Casablanca, he said, adding that spaces in the eastern part would be made airconditioned and available for prayers.

He told the Egyptian envoy that apart from the regular publication, the Islamic Foundation has published two thousand books. The Imam Training Academy has, so far, imparted training to some 40,000 Imams.

He said Islamic missions across the country were providing medicare facilities along with their programmes for rehabilitation of the marginal people.

The Deeni Dawat and cultural department of the foundation has taken different programmes which include publishing 27 volume of Islamic encyclopaedia, running mosque-based libraries and other cultural programmes.

The DG presented *tafsir* of Holy Quran and other religious books to the envoy. They also discussed some issues relating to common religious and cultural heritage of the two countries.

The NUKR will utilise the ways to realise their demand — establishing photography facility in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet Shahjalal universities and a photography section in the Shipakala Academy — for which the committee has been working a movement since 1995.

It was addressed by Nurul Huda, Monwar Hossain, Monwar Hossain Manik, Khurshid Alam, Murtaza Ali, Golam Mostafa, Kaiser Alam and Monwar Ahmed. Member: Faizul Rehman Jhini, Abdul Fazal was made chief adviser.

The meeting discussed the ways to realise their demand — establishing photography facility in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet Shahjalal universities and a photography section in the Shipakala Academy — for which the committee has been working a movement since 1995.

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The 14th anniversary of death of Shaheed Shahjahan Siraj will be observed today, reports UNB.

On this day in 1984, Shaheed Shahjahan Siraj, then General Secretary of Rajshahi University Bangladesh Chhatra League, was killed during a 48-hour strike called by SKOP (Sramik Karmachari Okya Parishad).

SKOP (Sramik Karmachari Okya Parishad) has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

In the capital, it will bring out procession from the Madhu's canteen at 8 am and rally at the foot of 'Aparajeyo Bangla'. They will also place wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar after the procession.

BCL will also hold *Milad Mahfil* at Shaheed Siraj's residence at Goshapur village in Dinajpur.

STCS parade held

JESSORE, Dec 21: The Attestation Parade of a batch of new recruits was held at the Signal Training Centre and School (STCS) at the Cantonment here on December 17, reports UNB.

The STCS Commandant Brigadier Syed Abu Hasnat Mohammad Tawhid reviewed the smartly turned-out parade as chief guest and distributed prizes among the outstanding recruits, said an ISPR press release.

Recruit Mirsadul Hoque was adjudged the best all-round recruit while Recruit Bikas Kantu Barua excelled in professional training and recruit Abdur Rahim Shikder in military subjects respectively.



Digging of roads in the city's Dholakhal area is going on for a long time. As a result, apart from traffic jam, dust over the area adding to the suffering of passers-by and passengers. —Star photo

Released BNP leader meets Mannan Bhuiyan

By Staff Correspondent

CHUADANG district BNP general secretary and central vice-president of Jatiyatabad Krishak Dal Shahidul Islam, who was released on bail recently, called on party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at BNP central office yesterday.

He was arrested from Pabna under 'false' charge while he was discharging election duties on the by-polls day in Pabna-2 constituency held on December 10, said a press release.

Japan to provide Tk 49 lakh for flood rehabilitation programmes

Two non-government organisations will receive US dollar 102,907 equivalent to Tk 49.39 lakh from Japan, reports UNB.

The NGOs are Nari Udyog Kendra (NUK) and Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DOPR).

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yoshikazu Kaneko signed two separate contracts in these regards with Masuda Khatun of NUK and A H M Nouman DOPR yesterday, said a press release of the Embassy of Japan.

The NUK will utilise the ways to realise their demand — establishing photography facility in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet Shahjalal universities and a photography section in the Shipakala Academy — for which the committee has been working a movement since 1995.

It was addressed by Nurul Huda, Monwar Hossain, Monwar Hossain Manik, Khurshid Alam, Murtaza Ali, Golam Mostafa, Kaiser Alam, Golam Rahman, Murtaza Ali, Abdul Fazal, A U Fakhrudin and Fazlur Rehman Jhini.

The Tongi-bound truck of Kohinoor Transport was carrying 17 rolls of paper worth about Tk 5 lakh from Chittagong port.

Imported tissue